if so, whether the Planning Commission is planning to clarify and streamline many existing caps on FDI;

whether many foreign investors have complained that there are certain existing caps on FDI, which need to be looked after; and

if so, what steps are being taken by the Planning Commission to remove such hurdles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The National Common Minimum Programme has endorsed the importance of FDI and has set the target of doubling or tripling this category of flows.

Yes, Sir.

to (e) The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy, including sectoral equity caps and associated procedures, is reviewed by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion on a continued basis, consistent with the overall economic policy. The policy on FDI, has been recently reviewed and several rationalization/liberalization measures have been notified.

BPL people in Orissa

2796. MS. PRAMILABOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that around 260 million of the people are still below poverty line, the highest number being in Orissa, as per the country's first social development report; and

if so, what is Government's action plan to help the cash-strapped State to improve its social development sector to control the high rate of BPL in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) As per the recent report brought out by the Council for Social Development, published by Oxford University Press, namely, 'India Social Development Report", it has been stated-that 260 million Indians are still below poverty line according to 1999-2000 data (page No. 2, Table No. 1.1. of the Report). The Report also indicates that

the highest percentage of people below the poverty line is in Orissa. It may be mentioned that these figures are taken from the official poverty estimates brought out by the Planning Commission on the basis of NSS 55th round of large scale sample survey on household consumer expenditure, which was conducted during the year 1999-2000. As per the official estimates, the highest number of people helow the poverty line is in Bihar.

(b) The Government has been implementing various programmes/schemes through out the country including Orissa to help improve its social development sector to reduce the number of people below poverty line.

In rural areas, the programmes which are being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development for upliftment of BPL families are (i) Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), (ii) Swaranjayati Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), (iii) IndiraAwas Yojana (IAY), and (iv) National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

It may be noted that NREGS has been launched in 19 districts of Orissa with effect from 2nd Feb. 2006.

The poverty alleviation programme which is being implemented in urban areas is Swarra Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY). This programme seeks to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed or underemployed poor through setting up of micro enterprises and also through provision of Wage Employment by utilizing their labour for construction of useful public assets. Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) are being implemented to provide shelter for urban slum dwellers in 6.3 selected cities and remaining urban areas respectively.

The Public Distribution System in India has been more focused and targeted towards the very poor category. The "Antyodaya Anna Yojana" provides 35 kgs of foodgrains to the poorest of the poor families at a highly subsidized rate of Rs. 2 per kg., for wheat and Rs. 3 per kg, for rice. Recently, the coverage of Antyodaya Anna Yojana has been expanded from 2.0 crore (BPL) families to 2.5 crore families in 2005. The State Governments have been advised to give priority to the households from the poorest and the backward blocks and/or where nutritional deficiency is more widespread, while identifying the beneficiaries.

In addition to the above national programmes, the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) is also being implemented in Orissa. Under the Backward Districts Initiative component of RSVY, five districts of Orissa, namely, Keonjhar, Sundergarh, Ganjam, Gajapati and Mayurbhanj are covered for which Special Central Assistance of Rs. 45 crore for each district is to be provided over a period of three years. Under another component of RSVY, namely Special Plan for the undivided Kalahandi - Bolangir - Koraput (KBK) disricts of Orissa, Special Central Assistance of Rs. 250 crore per annum is being provided during the Tenth Plan period.

First social development report

†2797. SHRI RAM JETHMALANh
DR. MURLIMANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that as per the first social development report more than 260 million people in the country are living below the poverty line; and

if so, the number thereof and the assessment with regard to their average monthly income, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes Sir. As per the recent report brought out by the Council for Social Development, published by Oxford University Press, namely. 'India Social Development Report', it has been stated that 260 million Indians are still below poverty line according to 1999-2000; data (Page No. 2, Table No. 1.1 of the report). It may be mentioned that this figure is taken from the official poverty esimates brought out by the Planning Commission on the basis of NSS 55th round of large scale sample survey on house hold consumer expenditure, which was conducted during the year 1999-2000. The State-wise details of incidence of poverty by official methodology of Planning Commission is given in Statement-I. (See below)

(b) The Planning Commission estimates poverty on the basis of average monthly consumption expenditure, as generated by NSSO in its large sample survey and published in its reports. The data available from NSSO are on expenditures of households and not income. The average monthly expenditure of the poor is estimated to be Rs. 265.96 and Rs. 358.74 per capita per month in rural and uuban areas respectively in 1999-2000. The State wise monthly average expenditure of poor in 1999-2000 is attached in Statement-I I.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.